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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on October 26, 2006, Applicant(s) respectfully request(s) reconsideration.

Claims 1, 3-15 and 17-27 are pending.

Claims 1-4, 10, 12, 15-17, 22 and 25-27 stand rejected.

Claims 5-9, 11, 13, 14, 18-21, 23 and 24 have been objected to.

Claims 4, 5 and 23 are herein canceled.

Claims 1, 15 and 25-27 are independent.

Claims 1, 6-8, 15 and 25-27 are herein amended.

Applicant(s) believe that the claim(s) as presented are in condition for allowance. A notice to this affect is respectfully requested.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101:**

The Office Action rejects claim 26 for including nonstatutory subject matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Accordingly, claim 26 has been herein amended to recite An encoded set of processor based instructions including program code embodying program logic for directing a processor responsive to the instructions to perform steps for allocating and reallocating management responsibility of manageable entities to agents in a managed information network. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101 be withdrawn.

The Office Action indicates allowable subject matter in claims 5-9, 11, 13, 14, 18-21 and 23-24. Accordingly, these claims have been rewritten in independent form as follows:

Claim 1 has been amended with the subject matter of claims 4 and 5.

Claim 15 has been amended with the subject matter of claim 23.

Claim 25, having similar limitations as claim 1, has been amended with the subject matter of claim 11.

Claim 26, having similar limitations as claim 15, has been amended with the subject matter of claims 17 and 18.

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Claim 27, having similar limitations as claim 15, has been amended with the subject matter of claim 24.

As the remaining claims all depend, either directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 15, which by the foregoing are deemed allowable, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3735.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-9660, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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